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Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tped18>

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Published online: 01 Dec 2010.

To cite this article: Mr M'Nab (1870) VII. Report on the Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden , Transactions of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, 10:1-4, 80-80, DOI: [10.1080/03746607009468651](https://doi.org/10.1080/03746607009468651)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03746607009468651>

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VII. *Report on the Open-Air Vegetation at the Royal Botanic Garden.* By Mr M^cNAB.

The past portion of this winter has been in every respect similar to the corresponding portion of last winter, there having been little or no frost or snow about Edinburgh. The lowest thermometer readings since the 1st of December were on the mornings of the 12th, 13th, 30th, and 31st of December, being respectively 20°, 30°, 23°, and 28; also on 1st January, 21°, and on the 11th, 30°. Notwithstanding the general mildness, none of the ordinary spring-flowering plants and bulbs (with the exception of the snowdrop, which showed its first flower on the 9th), are yet in bloom, although the leaves of many are now pushing rapidly through the ground. Many of the summer and autumn plants are still flowering abundantly, such as stocks, wallflowers, blue gentian, *Viola odorata* and *tricolor*, *Primula Auricula vulgaris*, and *elatior*, *Potentilla alba*, likewise all the species of helleborus or Christmas roses. A few plants are now in bloom which generally come under the head of spring-flowering ones, but which have been in flower since the middle of December; these are *Tussilago fragrans* and *alba*; also *Phlox verna* and *Doronicum caucasicum*.

Of shrubby plants, the hazel, the *Garrya elliptica*, and *Jasminum nudiflorum* are now in full bloom. The warm summer experienced last year has been very beneficial for the ripening of the shoots of many shrubby plants, such as *Laurustinus*, which are this season covered with flower-buds to such an extent as we have not observed here for many years. The same remark holds good with regard to the early hybrid rhododendrons, which, although well budded, are not yet in bloom in the open air. The *Rhododendron atrovirens*, which is frequently in full flower long before this time, has only a few scattered blooms.

As a proof of the mildness of the season, many of the scarlet Tom Thumb geraniums are now quite green in the open borders, the freshest being those which stood unprotected during the winter of 1867-68.